

860416 (F2A)
BOX 1083

DECLASSIFIED

ACTION: POL-2

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

ISLAMABAD 35
REC 24 JUL

INFO 4/1 DOM ECON AID DAO PAO CHRON

R 231100Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO RUEHOC/STATE WASHDC 171

INFO RUEVUK/AMEMBASSY KABUL 3323

RUEVHR/AMCONSUL KARACHI 9363

ZEN/AMCONSUL LAHORE 8128

RUDIO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2906

RUEHOC/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 729

RUSPAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 9972

RUESHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 1931

BT

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DOWNGRADE TO (S) (C) OADR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF, UR

SUBJ: SOVIETS DENY ROLE IN AFGHAN COUP

1. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR BUDNIK, IN CONVERSATION WITH POL COUNSELOR AT JULY 23 SOCIAL FUNCTION, WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO DENY ANY ADVANCE SOVIET KNOWLEDGE OF DAUD'S JULY 17 COUP IN KABUL. SOVIETS, HE INSISTED, HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH COUP AND WERE AS SURPRISED AS ANYONE ELSE WHEN IT OCCURRED.

2. ASKED WHETHER HE FORESAW DIFFICULTIES IN PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS IN VIEW DAUD'S RECORD AS HARD-LINER ON PUSHTUNISTAN, BUDNIK SAID HE THOUGHT DAUD'S REFERENCE TO PUSHTUNISTAN IN HIS INITIAL RADIO SPEECH REFLECTED HIS NEED TO RALLY IMMEDIATE SUPPORT FROM ALL SEGMENTS AFGHAN SOCIETY, INCLUDING PUSHTUNISTAN ADVOCATES. ONCE HIS REGIME ORGANIZED ITSELF AND SOLIDIFIED ITS CONTROL, BUDNIK THOUGHT THERE WAS GOOD CHANCE IT WOULD TAKE MODERATE STAND TOWARD PUSHTUNISTAN.

3. BUDNIK EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT DAUD HAD NOT YET ANNOUNCED COMPOSITION OF HIS GOVERNMENT APART FOR NAMING HIMSELF PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER. HE COULD OFFER NO REASONS FOR APPARENT DELAY.

4. COMMENT: APPEARS FROM BUDNIK'S REMARKS THAT WIDE-SPREAD LOCAL SPECULATION TO EFFECT MOSCOW HAD MASTERMINDED DAUD'S COUP IS MAKING LOCAL SOVIETS UNCOMFORTABLE.

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SANDERHOFF

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